

RAJYA SABHA

Parliamentary Bulletin

PART - I

(TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTIETH SESSION)

No. 5833]

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026

**Brief Record of the Proceedings of the Meeting of the Rajya Sabha held
on the 16th March, 2026**

11-00 a.m.

1. Farewell to the Retiring Member

The Chairman bade farewell to Shri Ranjan Gogoi, Nominated Member of Rajya Sabha, who is retiring today *i.e.* 16th of March, 2026, on completion of his term of office.

11-02 a.m.

2. Papers Laid on the Table

The following papers were laid on the Table: —

1. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Coal, under sub-section (1) of Section 28 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957: -

- (1) S.O. 397(E)., dated the 28th January, 2026, notifying the 26 entities, as mentioned therein, to carry out exploration of coal and lignite only after accreditation as APAs (Accredited Prospecting Agencies) by the QCI-NABET, under the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960.
- (2) G.S.R. 64(E)., dated the 28th January, 2026, amending the First Schedule to the said Act.
- (3) G.S.R. 150(E)., dated the 27th February, 2026, publishing the Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rules, 2026.

2. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers: -

- (a) Annual Administration Reports of the Cantonment Boards, New Delhi, for the year 2024-25.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

3. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under Section 26 of the National Capital Region Planning Board Act, 1985: -

- (a) Annual Report of the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB), New Delhi, for the year 2023-24.

- (b) Annual Accounts of the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB), New Delhi, for the year 2023-24, and the Audit Report thereon.
 - (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Board.
- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
4. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs) and the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB), New Delhi, for the year 2023-24.
5. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 30 and sub-section (4) of Section 31 of the Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University Act, 2013: -
- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University, (RGNAU), Amethi, Uttar Pradesh, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 - (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

11-03 a.m.

3. Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice

Shri Brij Lal presented a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice:-

- (i) 160th Report on Demands for Grants (2026-27) of the Department of Personnel and Training;
- (ii) 161st Report on Demands for Grants (2026-27) of the Departments of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances, and Pension & Pensioners' Welfare;
- (iii) 162nd Report on Demands for Grants (2026-27) of the Department of Justice;
- (iv) 163rd Report on Demands for Grants (2026-27) of the Legislative Department; and
- (v) 164th Report on Demands for Grants (2026-27) of the Department of Legal Affairs.

11-04 a.m.

4. Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology

Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi laid on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology (2025-26):-

- (i) Twenty-third Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2026-27)' pertaining to the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications); and
- (ii) Twenty-fourth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2026-27)' pertaining to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

5. Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

Shrimati Sumitra Balmik laid on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (2025-26):-

- (i) Thirteenth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2026-27)' pertaining to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs); and
- (ii) Fourteenth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2026-27)' pertaining to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution).

11-05 a.m.

6. Reports of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing

Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde laid on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2025-26):

- (i) Twenty-seventh Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2026-27)' pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare);
- (ii) Twenty-eighth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2026-27)' pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research & Education);
- (iii) Twenty-ninth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2026-27)' pertaining to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries);
- (iv) Thirtieth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2026-27)' pertaining to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying);
- (v) Thirty-first Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2026-27)' pertaining to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries; and
- (vi) Thirty-second Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2026-27)' pertaining to the Ministry of Cooperation.

11-06 a.m.

7. Statement by Minister

Shri Suresh Gopi, *Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism* laid a statement regarding status of implementation of Observations/Recommendations contained in the Three Hundred and Fifty-seventh Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on 'Development of Niche Tourism (including Spiritual Tourism), Theme-based Tourist Circuits and Potential Tourist Spots' pertaining to the Ministry of Tourism.

11-07 a.m.

8. Announcement by the Chair

The Chairman made the following announcement:-

"Hon'ble Members, during the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee held on 11th March, 2026, certain Hon'ble Members had suggested that, in view of the commencement of several auspicious festivals such as *Navratri*, *Gudi Parva*, *Ramadan*, etc., from 19th March onwards, it would be appropriate if the sittings of the Council scheduled for 19th and 20th March, 2026 were not held.

I wish to inform the Hon'ble Members that the request made in this regard has been considered favourably by the Government. Accordingly, the sittings of the Council scheduled for Thursday, the 19th March, 2026 and Friday, the 20th March, 2026 stands cancelled.

However, in order to make up for the time so lost, the Council will instead sit on Saturday, the 28th March, 2026 and Sunday, the 29th March, 2026.

Hon'ble Members may kindly take note of the same."

∇11-10 a.m.

9. Matters raised with Permission

1. Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan raised a matter regarding the need to provide adequate sanitation and basic facilities for girls in schools.

11-13 a.m.

2. Shrimati Sudha Murty raised a matter regarding demand to establish an AIIMS at Raichur in Karnataka.

11-16 a.m.

3. Shrimati Sadhna Singh raised a matter regarding demand to establish an Eklavya Model Residential School at Chandauli in Uttar Pradesh.

11-18 a.m.

4. Shri Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba raised a matter regarding demand for preservation of old Koirengei Airfield of Manipur as part of India's national heritage.

11-20 a.m.

5. Dr. K. Laxman raised a matter regarding demand for inclusion of State OBC castes in the Central OBC list.

∇From 11-08 a.m. to 11-10 a.m. – some points were raised.

11-23 a.m.

6. Shri Ghanshyam Tiwari raised a matter regarding demand for introduction of a *Vande Bharat* Express from Jaipur to Jodhpur via Sikar, Churu and Bikaner.

11-26 a.m.

7. Shri Haris Beeran raised a matter regarding demand for legislation on withdrawal and withholding of life-sustaining medical treatment for terminally ill patients.

11-29 a.m.

8. Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni raised a matter regarding demand for effective implementation of the Right to Education Act in all educational institutions.

11-32 a.m.

9. Dr. Sandeep Kumar Pathak raised a matter regarding the need to address the growing problem of non-availability of confirmed railway tickets.

11-35 a.m.

10. Shri Jaggesh raised a matter regarding demand for stringent laws to prevent disruptions during international events in India.

11-38 a.m.

11. Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, *Leader of the Opposition* raised a matter regarding concern over the emerging challenges for Indian energy security.

∇11-49 a.m.

12. Shri Niranjana Bishi raised a matter regarding demand for establishment of a new Sainik School at Titilagarh in Bolangir District of Odisha.

11-52 a.m.

13. Shrimati Rekha Sharma raised a matter regarding concern over rising drug addiction, gang violence and gun culture in Punjab.

11-55 a.m.

14. Shri Sanjay Seth raised a matter regarding the need to ensure affordable and accessible cancer treatment in the country.

11-58 a.m.

15. Shri Pramod Tiwari raised a matter regarding concern over rising prices of essential commodities despite GST relief.

12-00 Noon

10. Starred Questions

Starred Questions Nos. 241 to 246 were orally answered. Answers to remaining Starred Question Nos. 247 to 255 were laid on the Table.

11. Unstarred Questions

Answers to Unstarred Question Nos. 2561 to 2720 were laid on the Table.

1-00 p.m.

The House adjourned and re-assembled at 2-01 p.m.

∇From 11-45 a.m. to 11-49 a.m. – some points were raised.

2-01 p.m.

12. Government Bill — Under Consideration

The Appropriation Bill, 2026, as passed by Lok Sabha.

Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, *Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs*, moved motions for consideration of the Bill.

The following Members took part in the discussion : —

2-02 p.m.	1.	Shri Shaktisinh Gohil
#2-32 p.m.	2.	Shri Arun Singh
2-53 p.m.	3.	Shri P. Wilson
3-04 p.m.	4.	Shri Raghav Chadha
3-15 p.m.	5.	Shri Muzibulla Khan
3-22 p.m.	6.	Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha
3-31 p.m.	7.	Dr. M. Thambidurai
⊗3-40 p.m.	8.	Dr. John Brittas
⊗3-48 p.m.	9.	Shri Ramji Lal Suman
3-55 p.m.	10.	Shrimati Sudha Murty
4-03 p.m.	11.	Shri Milind Murli Deora
4-08 p.m.	12.	Shri Sanjay Seth
4-17 p.m.	13.	Shri Sanjay Singh
4-24 p.m.	14.	Shri Niranjana Bishi
4-27 p.m.	15.	Shri S Niranjana Reddy
4-39 p.m.	16.	Shri Sandosh Kumar P
4-43 p.m.	17.	Dr. Sikander Kumar
4-53 p.m.	18.	Ms. Swati Maliwal
4-56 p.m.	19.	Shrimati Sulata Deo
5-00 p.m.	20.	Dr. Fauzia Khan
@5-04 p.m.	21.	Shri Mokariya Rambhai
5-15 p.m.	22.	Shri Ghanshyam Tiwari

This discussion was not concluded.

5-35 p.m.

13. Special Mentions

The following Special Mentions were made:-

5-35 p.m.	1.	Shri Brij Lal	Need for nature-based solutions and risk-informed planning to Urban Planners.
5-38 p.m.	2.	Dr. Ajeet Madhavrao Gopchade	Demand for implementation of a mandatory identity authentication system for social media profiles and email accounts.

#From 2-06 p.m. to 2-07 p.m. – some points were raised.

⊗From 3-39 p.m. to 3-40 p.m. – some points were raised.

⊗From 3-47 p.m. to 3-48 p.m. – some points were raised.

@From 5-03 p.m. to 5-04 p.m. – some points were raised.

5-41 p.m.	3.	Shri Sandosh Kumar P	Need for aggressive outreach to register Unorganised Workers on the e- <i>Shram</i> Portal.
5-43 p.m.	4.	Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham	Concern over the healthcare services in Kerala due to series of ongoing strikes.
5-45 p.m.	5.	Dr. Laxmikant Bajpayee	Demand to confer Central University status to Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut.
5-46 p.m.	6.	Dr. Syed Naseer Hussain	Concern over adverse impact of India-US trade deal on agricultural interests.
5-48 p.m.	7.	Shri Mahendra Bhatt	Demand for a special economic package for the removal of accumulated debris in Uttarakhand's rivers, water management, and flood control.
5-50 p.m.	8.	Dr. Fauzia Khan	Concern over town planning recruitment and regulation.
5-52 p.m.	9.	Shri Shambhu Sharan Patel	Demand for stoppage of trains at Bagibardiha in Nawada district of Bihar.

5-53 p.m.

The House adjourned till 11-00 a.m. on Tuesday, the 17th March, 2026.

P. C. MODY,
Secretary-General